

Brattleboro Energy Committee
April 20, 2020 - Special Meeting, 5:00pm
Held Remotely via GoToMeeting
Minutes

NOTE: Per the “Stay Home – Stay Safe” order issued by Governor Scott on March 13, 2020, this meeting was held remotely with no physical location using GoToMeeting.

Members Present: Oscar Heller, Millicent Cooley, Ralph Meima, Carol Levin, Tony Duncan
Others Present: Stephen Dotson, Tim Wessel, Sue Fillion (organizer)

A. Introductions and Announcements

We went around the group present for updates and check-ins. All are experiencing unusual circumstances.

Stephen: Looking into scheduling a call with SolSmart. Looking into ICLEI. Dominant theme now: gardening, growing food/growing hope. Referred to Brattleboro Area Mutual Aid. Also: biking, trails. Connectivity.

Noted: Cheryl Wilfong, Seed swap, plant swap.

Millicent is a BAMA coordinator. She + others formed a tech group. Not exactly clear how people will be helped. Referred to wifi matchmaking so people can get access; includes public wifi spots. Could help the community both short-term and long-term. Idea: remote repair cafe? Millicent: would test the limits/possibilities of tech.

Oscar noted that a lot can flourish without official approval. What will the long-term effects of all this be?

Brattleboro Time Trade originated idea of repair cafe...

Stephen: BDCC would be interested in this process for the remote workforce. Or DBA.

B. Approve Minutes

Last meeting in person was on March 2.
Were sent out 3/2 by Millicent.
Motion to approve. Seconded. Passes 5-0-0.

C. Sustainability Coordinator's report

See above.

Local energy ramifications of COVID-19?

Significantly reduced public-sector gasoline use, but much of the consumption may have migrated to homes.

D. Discuss committee mission

Mission statement?

Oscar: wants to return to Broader sustainability vs. energy-focus discussion?

Millicent: recalls a consensus that energy remain a major emphasis of the Committee. Must include for example an annual energy report. Oscar wants to check with the town about its plans and preferences for the Committee.

Stephen: notes missions/focus of other bodies, such as Ag Working Group and Conservation Commission. Don't want redundancy, or uncoordinated duplication of efforts. Notes he is developing a system of how his role relates to multiple different bodies. Town needs to talk about this more.

Idea (Ralph): Some sort of community debrief at the end of the COVID-19 period: lessons learned etc. See as a natural part of Stephen's role - to coordinate it. Fits into larger idea of having an annual town conference/seminar/workshop. Could be the first one.

Oscar: Stephen, spot us. Provide feedback. Mission statement: at least wait out the stay-at-home period before proceeding with this.

Community Food Action Team (CFAT): Stephen developing...

Carol: Noted Stu McDermott - waste recovery.

Stephen: Also in touch with Deconstruction Works (Erich Krueger)

E. Discuss priorities during pandemic

See above

F. Working group reports

ENERGY REPORT:

Repair Cafe and Tool Library are on hold

G. Public participation

Anyone?

General issue raised by Ralph: Do we want to do anything that helps us/local folks get updated about energy policy on the state level, such as 100% RPS Bill, TCI, etc.

Millicent: legislators have been having weekly roundtables; see Emilie Kornheiser's Facebook page. Meets every Saturday at 9 AM. That is a good way to connect with state policy.

Idea to discuss further: a state forum with local legislators later in the year - before or after election??

H. Adjourn

Adjourned at 6:12 pm.

Next meeting: 5/11 (2nd Sunday of month)

Minutes prepared by Ralph Meima